



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, July 21, 2000

Mexican National Sentenced for Document Fraud

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the sentencing today of a Mexican national for the production and sale of counterfeit identification documents in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Hoffman.

Alberto Ramirez-Morales, age 37, a US Legal Permanent Resident from Mexico, residing at 1070 Wheeling Road in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, was sentenced to 24 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Ronald A. Guzman.

On January 13, 2000, INS agents, with the assistance of the Mt. Prospect Police Department, arrested Alberto Ramirez-Morales as a result of an undercover investigation in which INS agents purchased counterfeit documents from Ramirez-Morales. Ramirez-Morales produced the counterfeit documents at his residence in Mt. Prospect, which was set up with the proper tools and equipment used to manufacture fraudulent identity documents. Counterfeit documents sell on the street for between \$80 to \$150 per set, which includes a false social security card and green card, and are routinely manufactured and sold to illegal aliens who purchase such documents to obtain employment and conceal their identity.

"The INS is cracking down on criminals who manufacture and sell false documents," said INS District Director Brian R. Perryman. "Our Special Agents are out on the streets in Chicago to ensure that these documents do not get into the hands of this country's illegal workers."

Since 1998, INS agents in Chicago have confiscated approximately 60,000 fraudulent documents from illegal manufacturers and vendors.

###